



The Interfaith Center of New York connect educate learn change manage participate tolerate interact

January 2012 E-Bulletin

Happy New Year from the Interfaith Center of New York! We are grateful to all of you who have generously given to our annual appeal so far. Your support will help us continue diverse interfaith programs throughout New York.

As you may have heard, over the weekend four locations in Queens, including the Al-Khoei School and a home used for Hinu services, were attacked with fire bombs in what is believed to be a hate crime aimed targeted at locations with religious affiliation. The Interfaith Center offers its deepest sympathies to all those affected by the fire bombings, and is dedicated to continued support and action for interfaith cooperation in New York City.

Below we list upcoming programs sponsored by the Interfaith Center of New York, followed by events that may be of interest in the New York area. A listing does not imply endorsement.

Interfaith Center Sponsored Events

Exciting Opportunity for K-12 Teachers

The Interfaith Center of New York and Union Theological Seminary are delighted to announce a new educational program, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In July of 2012, we will host an N.E.H. summer institute for school teachers, entitled ***Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity***. This innovative program will help public, private, and parochial school teachers teach more effectively about the rich religious diversity of the United States. It will introduce participants to religious traditions that are part of the fabric of American life, help them distinguish between academic and devotional approaches to the study of religion, and offer them the pedagogic tools they need to teach their students about *lived religion*, in addition to the conventional world religions curriculum. Applications from teachers are due by March 1st, 2012. For detailed information about the institute see www.religiousworldsnyc.org or email hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org 212-870-3514.

Religious Faith and Social Work Practice: Interfaith Perspectives on the Call to Service

Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Offices of Lighthouse International (111 East 59th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues)

A panel of social workers and community leaders from a range of religious traditions will discuss the role of their faith in shaping their practice as social service providers, mental health professionals, and social justice advocates. How, they will ask, can our religious traditions contribute to our work with individuals, families, and communities? How, at the same time,

should we distinguish between our own personal faith and our professional practice? The discussion will speak to social workers in all fields of practice, including those working with aging populations, immigrant communities, and others. Cosponsored by the Interfaith Center of New York and the Gerontology Committee of the National Association of Social Workers, NYC chapter. RSVP required: mhscott@aarp.org, or (212) 407-3727

Muslim-Catholic Social Service Partnerships

Date: January 19, 2012

Time: 9:30am to 4:00pm

Location: The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, Dining Rooms C & D (by invitation only)

Join Muslim and Catholic social service providers, clergy, lay leaders, dialogue thought leaders and practitioners for a day's reflection on crossing the bridge from dialogue to action. With support from the *GHR Foundation*, the *Interfaith Center of New York* launched a two-year pilot program to create action-oriented cooperative projects between *Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York*, *Harlem Vicariate*, *Catholic Teen Federation*, and Muslim organizations including *Miraj Islamic School*, *Muslim Women's Institute*, *Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood*, *Aqsa Mosque* and *Touba Mosque*. We will highlight these partnerships and reflect on lessons learned, best practices and challenges to collaboration. *Participants will have an interfaith discussion on a service project and identify strategies to execute a collaboration.* Speakers include Paul Moses, veteran journalist & author of the *Saint and the Sultan: the Crusades, Islam and Francis of Assisi's Mission of Peace*, Fr. Elias Mallon, Br. Naeem Baig, Sr. Nurah Amatullah, Imam Tahir Kukiqi, Gayle Murphy and others.

By Invitation Only. RSVP & Questions to Sarah Sayeed, Ph.D., Program Associate, Interfaith Center of New York; ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org. Light lunch provided.

Brooklyn Courts Roundtable on Elder Abuse

Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2011

Time: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Location: Kings County District Attorney's Office, 350 Jay Street, Bob Kaye Training Room, 19th Floor, Brooklyn.

The Interfaith Center of New York, New York State Courts Access to Justice Program, Kings County District Attorney's Office and New York City Elder Abuse Center invite Brooklyn Community Leaders to a Roundtable Discussion: *Elder Abuse: the Invisible Epidemic*. Every year in the city of New York, 100,000 seniors are the victims of physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation. Only about 4% of these cases are reported – the rest are suffering in silence. We invite community and faith leaders to attend this roundtable, to share information about how to recognize, counsel and bring relief to victims of this invisible epidemic. The lecture will address challenges faced by victims of elder abuse, examine legal rights, and explore who to turn to for help.

To RSVP: Contact Kevin Childress at (212) 870-3547 or email kevin@interfaithcenter.org with your name, e-mail address, telephone number, organization name, faith and denomination. We look forward to seeing you there.

Social Work and Religious Diversity Courses for Social Workers and MSW Students

Dates and Topics for 2012: February 10: Judaism
February 17: Christianity
February 24: Islam
March 2: Buddhism
March 9: Hinduism
March 16: Afro-Caribbean Religions
March 23: Closing Discussion and Further Reflections
Time: All sessions meet on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with lunch served at noon
Location: UJA-Federation of New York 130 East 59th Street, 7th Floor

The Interfaith Center of New York and our partners invite all social work students and practitioners to join us for a *free* course on social work and religious diversity. Come learn about your clients' religious beliefs, practices, and values. Discuss the role of religion in the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Share the experience with scholars, clergy, activists, and each other. For information and registration contact Miriam Herscher at miriam@interfaithcenter.org or 917-691-9912.

Other New York Events

Call For Applicants: Open Society Black Male Achievement Fellowship

Application Deadline: January 9, 2012

Could you use \$70,000 to launch your innovative idea to change the lives of black men and boys? Echoing Green is proud to launch the inaugural Open Society Black Male Achievement Fellowship. Up to 8 promising social entrepreneurs with bold ideas will receive \$70,000 in seed funding, strategic support, and a powerful community of Echoing Green and Open Society Foundation Fellows and Alumni over an 18 month fellowship. The first round online application is open now, through January 9, 2012. Learn more at <http://www.echoinggreen.org/bma-fellowship>.

Join NYC Service Community Partner Registry

The New York City Service Office is looking to form a network of organizations that can help meet the needs of seniors in their community. NYC Service can help with volunteer recruitment, information about local seniors in need, and publicity. Please join our community partner registry to help homebound seniors this winter. For information or questions on how to get involved please email NYCService@cityhall.nyc.gov or call (212) 788-7550.